

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## SB01-022 BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

July 2001 (Initial)

Summer is over and now it is time for the new school year to begin, this means more children on the streets during the "**Rush Hours.**" Yet, when it comes to crossing the street, you might want to think twice before letting your children go solo. Very few children under age 10 can deal safely with traffic. Here's why:

- Children have difficulty judging how fast cars are moving, how far away and which direction traffic sounds are coming from.
- They think cars can stop instantly, or that if they can see a driver, the driver can see them.

Did you know that it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus from either direction? When you are a driver of a vehicle meeting or overtaking a school bus from either direction follow these easy steps:

- Be alert and watch the school bus lights at the top of the bus.
- If the yellow lights are flashing, the bus is approaching a stop (this is a warning).
- When the red lights come on and the **STOP ARM** is out, **YOU MUST STOP.**
- Do not proceed until the **STOP ARM** is retracted and the red lights are off, or the driver signals you to.
- Approaching traffic on a divided highway is not required to stop.

Did you know the speed limit in a school zone is only 20 miles per hour (mph)? Help reduce the accidents to children in or near these areas by following these simple rules:

- Be prepared to stop, children may appear from between parked cars or from behind trees, etc.
- Children are often in a hurry and do not always cross at crosswalks.
- Maintain 20 mph speed limits in school zones.
- Stop when a child or pedestrian is in the crosswalk.
- Never try to predict the actions of a child, expect the unexpected.

You can help reduce the number of student fatalities by slowing down in school zones.